SRSF to prevent rail accidents

1153. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 17,000 crore special Railway Safety Fund would be used for speedy replacement of age-old systems and for skill upgradation;

(b) whether statistics show that about two-thirds of rail accidents take place due to human failures and mistakes;

(c) if so, to what extent this fund has been utilized so far, to check rail accidents;

(d) whether any concrete steps have been finalised for implementation; and

(e) if so, to what extent rail accidents have been reduced since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) A non-lapsable 'Special Railway Safety Fund* of Rs. 17000 crore has been set up to wipe out the arears in renewal of over-aged assets such as track, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gears etc. within affixed time frame of 6 years.

(b) Yes, Sir. About 84% accidents take place due to human errors, including failure of road users to take precautions while negotiating manned and unmanned level crossings.

(c) Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) has been set up with effect from October 2001 and allocation to the tune of Rs. 1400 crore was made in the Revised Estimate for the year 2001 -02. In the year 2002-03 (Budget Estimate) an amount of Rs. 2210 crore has been provided.

(d) and (e) As the renewals and other identified works to be undertaken under SRSF are likely to be completed by 2006-07, subject to availabiltiy of funds, the quantification of reduction in the number of accidents is not feasible at present.